

The Fire Fighter Gazette

Volume 5

May 1996

"... we would like to solicit your articles or questions, so here is how you can get in touch with us: 510 CES/CEF, 6202 Pine Drive, USAF Academy, CO 80840. Our phone numbers are: Commercial: (719) 472-4433, DSN 259-4433, and FAX: (719) 472-3740, DSN 259-3740."

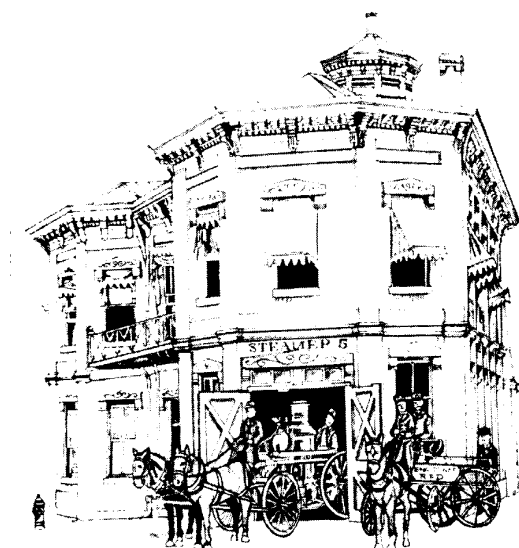
Charter

The purpose of the Fire Fighter Gazette is simple - to provide a forum for sharing "unofficial" information between Air Force Fire Departments. Its contents consist of information, ideas, and comments provided by you, the reader. It is not intended to be a complaint bulletin, instead a means of just providing information. CMSgt Gene Rausch was the previous editor of this newsletter, but has since moved to HQ PACAF as the Fire Protection Manager (presumably to work under a palm tree). Anyway, its taken us a while but we are back on line! As always, we would like to solicit your articles or questions, so here is how you can get in touch with us: 510 CES/CEF, 6202 Pine Drive, USAF Academy, CO 80840. Our phone numbers are: Commercial: (719) 333-2051, DSN 333-2051, and FAX: (719) 333-3740, DSN 333-3740. If possible, article submissions should include a Word For Windows file on floppy disk, although that's not a show stopper.

Computers!

Since computers are an integral part of our lives now, a short mention in this newsletter is warranted. The first thing I wanted to do is to pass out some "Web Sites" on the Internet that you may find interesting to browse around in:

www.dfas.mil/money/civpay : this will get you the current GS pay table.



Quality Council meets in Indy

The Air Force Fire Protection Quality Council met in Indianapolis this past February to tackle tough issues that are facing our fire folks Air Force wide. The following minutes represent the discussion that occurred during the two days of meetings. A list of attendees is provided at the end of this article.

1. With additional staff reductions occurring the QC discussed what issues should be HQ AFCESA/CEXF priorities in support of MAJCOM's fire protection programs. The following programs/initiatives should continue

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Quality Council Minutes

to be worked at the Agency:

Vehicle Buy Program/POM; Civilian Personnel Classification Issues; AFI/AFOSH (policy) Development; CAREERS; Certification (CDCs, CERTEST); Readiness Issues; Tech School Development and Changes; HAZMAT; Software Development.

2. Mr. **Morgan** discussed the possibility of CTE for a remote system to perform Hazardous fire fighting operations. Mr. **Pike** reminded the QC that we shut down a similar effort (R&D) a few years ago. No specific proposal was made.

3. Mr. **Morgan** made a motion that the Halon Report be accomplished by CEV to eliminate the current duplication. Motion was carried unanimously.

4. Mr. **Morgan**: Curriculum rewrite for Silver Flag is coming up. Expressed dissatisfaction with training only "critical" fire fighters - need to return to training entire team in bare base operations. This is more important to fire fighters than any other discipline in CE because fire fighting is done *only* by teams. Discussion followed. Mr. **Warner** made a motion that fire protection participation in Silver Flag be by team and the training return to a wartime beddown proficiency training scenario. Additionally, that the curriculum be rewritten accordingly during the upcoming curriculum rewrite. Certification of specific critical skills may continue. Passed unanimously.

5. Mr. **Pike**: Discussed reclassification of GS-7 to GS-6. Mr. **Warner** briefed the group on a problem which has resulted due to GS-5 fire fighters at a closure base hitting the priority placement list. There are very few GS-5 positions at most Air Force bases. AFRES/CEXF has an initiative to write standard position descriptions for GS-5 through GS-7 to correct the problem but some fallout may be felt by other MAJCOM's.

6. Mr. **Caratachea** discussed the conversion of civilian to military fire chief. When this occurs, the deputy fire chief becomes a civilian position. "Deputy" cannot be used in a position description. A wide disparity exists within commands and between commands on the proper classification of 2nd in command positions. Because of these difficulties, conversion actions may be delayed. Supplemental guidelines need to be developed so classifiers properly and consistently classify

positions.

7. Mr. Jimmy **McKay**: Discussed the 750 vs 1000 GPM factor in the pumper authorization. Discussion delayed until tomorrow.

8. Mr. **Hotell** called the meeting to order and introduced Mr. Charles **Smith** (OSD) who heads Emergency Services at DoD level.

9. Discussed priority buy program. Current direction is to buy by command (POM) pending efforts to return to central buy. AFCESA/ CEXF need to prepare an ORD, coordinating with MAJCOMs, to begin the "centralized" efforts.

10. Reference Item 7, Mr. **Hotell** made a motion that the QC accept the 1000 GPM in the formula. QC passed unanimously.

11. Major **Carson**, DSN 523-6306, email: carsonm@afcesa.af.mil, HQ AFCESA/CEXR (manages RD&A) discussed the POM process and provided a flow chart to explain the process. A MAJCOM must sponsor any new requirements. Explained the integrated (all CE) prioritization process. Needs financial history of command buys for items authorized and stocklisted via RD&A (all items bought from the TA). This information is needed to determine whether the agency should continue to stocklist only or initiate buy-and-provide efforts.

12. Mr. **Porter** made a motion that AFCESA act to stocklist 3 each units for USAFE and NGB for a mobile training facility, commercially available today, for testing as a temporary solution to the lack of fire training facilities. Approved unanimously.

13. Mr. **Porter** requested AFCESA arrange training to prepare administrators of the fire fighter physical conditioning program. Discussion: AFMAN is being contested at air staff level because it isn't a total wellness program. A memo will be coming to AFCESA from Air Force/SG providing interim instruction to continue use of the existing fitness program. Mr. **Hotell** will publish to MAJCOMs and will explore training requirements. Mr. **Smith** expressed concern for the impact on all DoD.

14. Mr. **Porter** discussed the non-availability of guidance regarding CECF for fire fighters. Mr. **Pike** stated a new career guide is due out soon and information is available at their local CPO. Our registrants are not taking advantage of

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More Quality Council Minutes!

educational opportunities. AFCESA will coordinate with appropriate personnel and provide guidance to the field. (editor's note: see related article, page 4)

15. Mr. **Porter** made a motion that the QC support efforts to cover GS-9s in the CECF. This is necessary because of GS-11 Fire Chiefs. QC approved unanimously.

16. Mr. **McKay** made a motion that the fire representation on the CECF Policy Committee be balanced with other CECF disciplines. Fire protection constitutes 14% of the CECF with only one (voting) representative. Other disciplines have multiple representatives. Motion carried unanimously.

17. Mr. **Porter** highlighted problems between inspection team grade requirements because we have no GS-9 fire inspectors.

18. Mr. **Porter** proposed that AFCESA be a clearing house for QAF materials involving fire protection.

19. Mr. **Porter** discussed CERTEST security problems and emphasized the need to keep the system honest. CMS **Podolske** briefed the group on previous test compromise at an Air Force base. Investigation revealed test compromise on a massive scale, including HAZMAT tests being left unlocked and unsecured, fictitious names and SSAN (to enable multiple tests), tests not administered in a proctored environment, knowledge of but inaction to correct problems at management levels, certification training being conducted by unqualified trainers, unauthorized use of reference materials and tutors being tested. The Chief explained the new CERTEST for Windows program and the safeguards included in it.

20. Mr. **Morgan** asked if the AMC/ACC fire station design guide is going to become the Air Force standard. ACTION: AFCESA/CEXF.

21. Mr. **Morgan** requested that a realistic standard be developed for response times to aircraft incidents. Mr. **Hotell** stated the requirements will be placed in AFI 32-2001.

22. Mr. **Morgan** requested 1008C Military Handbook include a water supply for runways. Mr. **Hotell** will discuss with Fred **Walker**. Mr. **Warner** stated the AFRES standard is a pressurized source within 500 feet of any aircraft location (runway, taxiway, parking apron, etc.).

23. Mr. **Morgan** requested a status report of the effort to develop an Air Force standard structural fire training facility and EMS.

24. Mr. **Morgan** requested status of effort to change the GS-0081 Standard to allow station chiefs for single fire stations.

25. Mr. **Morgan** briefed the March AFB fire caused by welding. Problems included the welding safety briefer not being properly qualified, no re-inspection after the welding operation, inability of the contractor to remove combustible materials to a 35' distance, lack of appropriate provisions in the contract, and lack of (disconnected) fire detection system.

26. Mr. **Hotell** discussed an initiative to have installations rated under the ISO system. The system has a capability to provide a more objective method of determining levels of protection and associated risks when levels are reduced.

27. CMS **Soto** briefed his trip to Peru to train civilian fire fighters on AWACS aircraft fire fighting.

28. Mr. **McKay** discussed compressed natural gas-operated command vehicles, two of which are at Tinker.

29. Mr. **Remson** and Mr. **Sutphin** (BDM) briefed the CTE - someone in the financial community has determined that R&D money cannot be used for CTE. A point paper has been provided to each MAJCOM which includes options to solve this problem.

(editor's note: Thanks to Mr. Don Warner for providing these QC minutes)

Fire Protection Quality Council Attendees

Mr. Jim Hotell
Mr. Ray Porter
Mr. Hugh Pike
SMS John Staub
Mr. Duane Morgan
Mr. Randy Caratachea
Mr. Charles Byrd
Mr. Richard Duncan
Mr. Don Warner
Mr. Sandy Sanchez
Mr. Jimmy McKay
CMS Carlos Soto
CMS Richard Marshall

"CMS Podolske briefed the group on previous test compromise at an Air Force base. Investigation revealed test compromise on a massive scale, including HAZMAT tests being left unlocked and unsecured, fictitious names and SSAN(to enable multiple tests), tests not administered in a proctored environment..."

Careers Class held at AFA



"... the program is divided into two parts - promotion and education. In the promotion department, Individuals who want to be considered in the position of GS-10 and above, must register at the Civilian Personnel Office for the installations they are interested in. When a position becomes available, the base civil engineer (in the case of a vacant Fire Chief's position) has the civilian personnel office contact Randolph AFB (site of the Air Force Manpower Center) to generate a list of qualified applicants."

At the end of March, a class conducted at the Air Force Academy brought in Air Force fire protection leaders literally from all around the globe.

The *Civil Engineering Careers Program* is, as the name implies, a program managed by the Civilian Personnel System to assist in the management of the careers of our senior leadership. When the program first started, fire protection was left out of the loop. A few years ago, the fire protection folks were allowed to begin to utilize this program. How does it work, you ask? Well, the program is divided into two parts - promotion and education. In the promotion department, individuals who want to be considered in the position of GS-10 and above, must register at the Civilian Personnel Office for the installations they are interested in. When a position becomes available, the base civil engineer (in the case of a vacant Fire Chief's position) has the civilian personnel office contact Randolph AFB (site of the Air Force Manpower Center) to generate a list of qualified applicants. Applicants are "racked and stacked" by current pay grade, qualifications and other variables that come out of a Latin book somewhere. Anyway, when the list gets down to a manageable size, the good folks at Randolph then re-do the list in alphabetical order. The BCE reviews the list, with the applicants' informational certificate, and makes his/her selection.

On the educational side of things, there are several programs available. There are training dollars available every year for registrants in the program to utilize specifically for higher education at the bachelor's degree or better. This editor received enough money this year to cover six classes at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. Also available through this program is a series of management seminars that are sponsored by HQ AFCEA. It is one of these seminars that the Academy hosted in March, in our fire training area. The seminar, entitled "Disaster Planning", was taught by **Dr. William Kramer**. If the name sounds familiar, it's because he is the author of *Fire Officer's Guide to Disaster Control*. He speaks all around the nation on this subject, when he is not doing his full time job - Fire Chief of the Indianapolis International Airport Fire Department. The following is a list of attendees, at the March Seminar, provided for

your interest:

James Hotell, HQ AFCEA, FL
Raymond Porter, HQ USAFE, GE
Jim McKay, HQ AFMC, OH
Richard Duncan, HQ USAFA, CO
Charles Barnett, Tinker AFB, OK
Philip Bennie, Vandenberg AFB, CA
Charlie Bowen, Langley AFB, VA
Tom Boyce, Fairchild AFB, WA
Chris Burdette, Davis Monthan AFB, AZ
Hubert Dukes, Westover AFB, MA
Lewis Everett, Lackland AFB, TX
James Love, Falcon AFB, CO
William Moore, Hickam AFB, HI
William Stackhouse, FE Warren AFB, WY
Thomas Stevens, Patrick AFB, FL
Harold Stringfellow, Little Rock AFB, AR
Raymond Stokes, Laughlin AFB, TX
Carl Wilkes, Grand Forks AFB, ND
Billy Young, Keesler AFB, MS
Joe Ybarra, Edwards AFB, CA

Quite an impressive list of leaders from the fire protection field. The seminar was very successful, and was even attended by some locals. **Frank Luciani**, Director of El Paso County Disaster Management and Capt **Bill Ragsdale**, Colorado Springs Fire Department HAZMAT guru were both invited to speak and to share their perspectives on Disaster Management. An excellent course conducted by a group of true professionals!

Computers (con't)

www.dfas.mil/money/milpay : this site has information on military pay, VHA rates, BAS and BAQ rates.

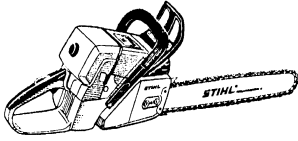
www.dtic.mil/perdiem : this site will give you per diem rates, in the CONUS and overseas.

www.afpc.af.mil : this web is at Randolph, at the Air Force Center - it is full of military and civilian information.

cecp@hq.afpc.af.mil : this is only an e-mail address, but an important one - it belongs to the civilian personnel careers program - use it for concerns about educational or promotional opportunities.

pikesh@afcesa.af.mil : not a web site either, but the e-mail address of Mr. **Hugh Pike** at HQ AFCEA.

Wildland Fire Fighting



"...the Colorado State Forest Service asked the USAFA's Fire Protection Flight to investigate the feasibility of staging a Single Engine Air Tanker at the Air Force Academy during peak wildfire periods...on 25 September, 1995, the aircraft made its first landing and demonstration/training flight at the Academy. This aircraft provides the south central Colorado area with a quick attack capability on small wildfires before they become unmanageable."

The Air Force Academy's on fire, and in some areas, the forest fuels have accumulated to incredible depths. The US Forest Service, Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado Springs fire department wildland fire teams, and various other neighboring fire protection districts are assisting the Academy's fire protection resources in reinforcing containment lines and applying massive amounts of agent to suppress the extreme hazard. These "prescribed burns" are one of several measures the Academy's natural resource planners and Fire Protection Flight are taking to reduce the amount of forest fuels that have accumulated over decades. In addition to reducing the build-up of dead forest fuels, they improve wildlife habitat throughout the treated areas. Fuel accumulations include logging slash and limbs piled and awaiting composting for erosion control mulch and for ground moisture containment efforts. The various fire suppression forces are local area departments helping to safely apply fire to fight fire in the urban interface, reducing the risk of another Oakland conflagration.

In February, 1993, the El Paso County Office of Emergency Management and Colorado State Forest Service invited the Air Force Academy Fire Protection and Natural Resources Flights to form a multi-agency partnership to prevent wildfires along Colorado's front range. The resulting Pikes Peak Wildfire Prevention Partners (PPWPP) includes representatives from the Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Colorado State Forest Service, El Paso County Office of Emergency Management, Teller and Douglas Counties, Fort Carson, City of Colorado Springs, National Parks Service, Bureau of Land Management, Council of Neighborhood Organizations, Colorado Forestry Association, homeowners associations, various individual fire protection districts, and individual homeowners.

During the Summer of 1995, the Academy's Fire Protection and Natural Resources Flights asked the USAFA's Academic Economics and Geography Department to help them develop wildfire containment zone maps of the Air Force Academy and to use its Geographic Information System software tools to produce accurate hazard, risk, and value plots of three counties along the Colorado Front Range. Their personnel have the ability to use field-

gathered Global Positioning System information to precisely locate and record vegetation and other features on the ground. They can also use high resolution, multispectral satellite imagery to obtain accurate and usable data plots of fuel density grids. Access to this technology and the products it can help skilled geographers to produce, will give the PPWPP high tech data and tools to target high risk zones that require prevention efforts and activities. They have involved cadets in this process by allowing them to contribute to these maps as part of class projects.

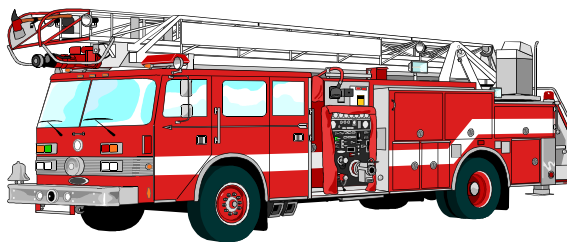
A Colorado State graduate research associate for the State Forest Service has also contributed to this project by completing a study that rated 63 Colorado counties susceptibility to urban area wildfire risk. El Paso County, which includes the Air Force Academy, was ranked number one among those at greatest risk for suffering wildfires as damaging as those in Oakland and Orange County, California.

In late 1993, the Colorado State Forest Service asked the USAFA's Fire Protection Flight to investigate the feasibility of staging a Single Engine Air Tanker at the Air Force Academy during peak wildfire periods. A lengthy negotiation process resulted in an agreement between the two agencies and on 25 September, 1995, the aircraft made its first landing and demonstration/training flight at the Academy. This aircraft provides the south central Colorado area with a quick attack capability on small wildfires before they become unmanageable. The aircraft is an 802 Air Tractor specifically designed for fast attack. With a maximum 197 mph air speed fully loaded, this unique resource can deliver up to 830 gallons of water or foam concentrate by on-board computer in any increment to small forest fires. The aircraft's ability to resupply quickly from a common 2-1/2 inch fire hose is critical for fast turn around time. A chase vehicle, loaded with foam concentrate normally accompanies the aircraft on extended operations in a specific area. Combined with the Academy's 50+ Colorado Red Card Certified wildland firefighters and fast response mutual aid from surrounding

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Fire Folks in the News

This editor is hoping that this portion of the newsletter will become the most popular feature. We would like to list as much information about our fire fighters as possible, but are wholly dependent upon you, the reader to help us out. We will continue to look for sources of information, but are counting on your help as well!



Promotions to Senior

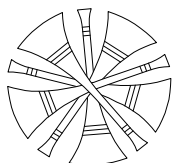


The following individuals were selected for promotion to Senior Master Sergeant in this last cycle. Included is their base when the announcement was made:

Howard J. **Davis** - Shaw AFB
David G. **Eelin** - Offutt AFB
Klaus D. **Koepp** - Edwards AFB
Daryle L. **Lopes** - RAF Lakenheath
Christopher **Parks** - USAF Academy
Glyn O. **Roberts** - Clear AFB
Robert B. **Simpson** - Beale AFB
Jon C. **Stanescu** - Fairchild AFB
Alex H. **Temporado** - Davis Monthan AFB

Congratulations to all the selectees!
The following individuals have been selected as Fire Chiefs at the locations indicated.

Fire Chiefs on the Move



Thanks to Mr. Hugh **Pike** for providing the information from the Careers program:

Charlie **Byrd** to HQ AETC
Ralph **McHenry** to Whiteman AFB, MO
Ben **Palmerton** to Ramstein AB, GE
Charlie **Cain** to Randolph AFB, TX
Paul **Giles** to RAF Lakenheath

Good-bye and good luck to two icons in fire protection that have left us for retirement:

Gone Fishin'

Sandy **Sanchez**
Larry **Adams**

Wildland (con't)

agencies and communities, the Academy's residents sleep better in the urban interface. Pikes Peak Wildfire Prevention Partners serves as a model for other organizations who promote effective mitigation of the threat of wildfire to life and property in other interface/intermix areas.

By conducting various projects and public education initiatives, the Partners have formed a diverse and flexible coalition which has incorporated many fire prevention agencies' ideas and goals into its mission. PPWPP has been the first to prove, on a national level, that individuals from national, state, county, local fire districts, local businesses, environmental organizations, and private homeowners can sit at the same table and make things happen to significantly reduce the threat of future wildfires.

The U. S. Air Force Academy's Fire Protection and Natural Resources Flights take a pre-emptive strike approach to wildfire prevention, pre-incident planning, and forest health administration. Through cooperative planning with the Pikes Peak Wildfire Prevention Partners and the continuing support of the Air Force Academy's leadership, the threat of a severe wildland fire has been significantly reduced.

(article submitted by Assistant Fire Chief Tracy Goodale, USAFA Fire Protection)

"We would like to list as much information about our fire fighters as possible, but are wholly dependent upon you, the reader to help us out. We will continue to look for sources of information, but are counting on your help as well!"

Open Space

What a great place for your article...would even give you more room if you like - see page one for the rules of engagement on article submission.

Short Bursts

The following snippets of Air Force news have been gathered from various sources and reprinted for your convenience.

American Express

The American Express Company announced that government credit card customers with a balance past due 90 days will receive letters warning that accounts remaining delinquent 120 days will be reported to the Credit Bureau as delinquent. Contact you local Travel Pay Office for more details.

SGLI Change

All servicemembers currently eligible for Serviceman's Group Life Insurance, regardless of any existing declination of coverage or election of reduced coverage, will be insured at the new maximum of \$200,000.

Members may reduce or decline coverage to any multiple of \$10,000 or less. Those previously having less than \$200,000 coverage should contact their unit orderly rooms to complete a new SGLI form.

Uniform Acceleration

The Chief of Staff recently approved accelerating the mandatory wear date for the new enlisted chevrons. Effective Oct 1, 1997, all enlisted personnel must wear the new chevrons on all uniform combinations. Since wearing the old style chevrons will not be an option after Oct 1, 1997, all E-4s will wear the new Senior Airmen chevron. Call your CBPO for additional information.

(editor's note: This article is reprinted from

Training Update

AFRP 32-1, March, 1996, submitted by CMSgt Jim Podolske, HQ AFCEA/CEXF)

In Dec 95, the Fire Protection Specialty CFETP was published. Since being published, we've received several suggested changes and requests for clarification. Based on customer feedback and support of the Joint Fire Protection Training School at Goodfellow AFB TX, a message, DTG 211430, Subj: Fire Protection (3E7X1) Career Field Education and Training Plan Changes, was sent making several changes/corrections to the CFETP. We

hope the message will make the CFETP a more user friendly document and also simplify and clarify our core task requirements.

In 1995 we distributed paper copies of the Fire Fighter II lesson plans to each MAJCOM for distribution to their respective bases. These lesson plans were paid for by the US Army. To save time with future updates or lesson plan development, we thought it would be a good idea to provide each base with a copy of these lesson plans on computer disk. The disks were distributed during the United States Air Force Civil Engineer Fire Protection Conference in Feb 96. The lesson plans are formatted as Word 6.0 documents. However, there are currently no plans to develop additional lesson plans.

Also, at the United States Air Force Civil Engineer Fire Protection Conference, we distributed copies of the Fire Fighter Certification video to each MAJCOM for subsequent distribution to each Air Force installation fire department. This video covers the entire certification process from enrollment procedures through required performance testing. The video also present information on the CerTest computer-based testing program. The purpose of this video is to answer your questions and help you effectively implement the certification program in accordance with DoD's accredited policies and procedures.

Lastly, we'd like to once again thank you for your support and commitment as we work together to deliver meaningful mission effective training to our people. If you have any questions concerning material that have been provided, please contact me (CMSgt Podolske) at DSN 523-6321.

Calendar

The Air Force Fire Protection Training and Hazardous Materials Subcommittees will meet jointly at the Air Force Academy from 3 - 6 June, 1996.

The International Association of Fire Chiefs will have their annual meeting in Kansas City, Missouri from 24 - 28 August, 1996.

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